

Castro and Donovan Near Pact on Captives

HAVANA, Oct. 9 (AP).—
Prime Minister Fidel Castro
and negotiator James B. Donovan
appeared set to complete
an agreement today for the
release of 1,113 Cuban prisoners
seized in the April, 1961,
invasion.

Responsible sources predicted
the prisoners would be flown to
Miami in a few days. The settlement
terms have not been disclosed.

In New York, Mr. Donovan
was quoted as saying by telephone:
"I'm looking forward to
an early resolution of the problem
and I hope to have something to
say later today or tomorrow. I am
highly optimistic."

Mr. Donovan was quoted by
Robert A. Morse, assistant general
counsel for the Cuban Families
Committee for the liberation of the
prisoners. Mr. Donovan represents the
committee in negotiations with the
Castro government.

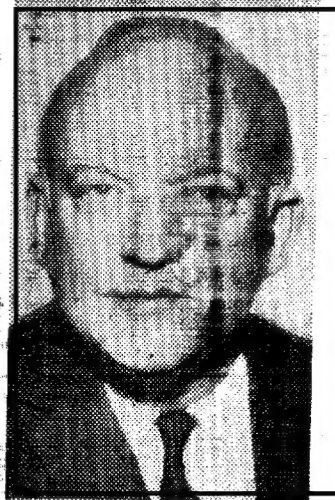
The Castro government originally
asked \$62 million in cash for all
the prisoners taken in the Bay of
Pigs invasion. About 60 already
have been freed. Mr. Donovan, a
New York attorney negotiating for
the families of the prisoners, has
said he would offer medicine and
food instead of a cash ransom.

The United States Government
might be called on to chip in with
some surplus food products, but
officials in Washington said there
have been no final arrangements
on this. Cuban exiles in Miami
say the bulk of the food and drug
supplies would be contributed by
the United States public, by relief
agencies and by families of the
prisoners.

Responsible sources said Mr.
Donovan has arranged with Pan
American World Airways for
transportation to take all the
prisoners from Havana to Miami
before the week end.

(In Washington, the State
Department said no agreement
had been reached "as of this
morning." Lincoln White, State
Department press officer, told
newsmen it was his understanding
that "discussions are continuing.")

Relatives and friends of the
prisoners in Havana, certain



JAMES B. DONOVAN

—AP Wirephoto

that an agreement already has
been reached, have been showering
Mr. Donovan with gifts and praise.
The lawyer, who negotiated the
swap of U-2 Pilot Francis Gary
Powers for Soviet spy Rudolf
Abel last year, has refused to
accept a fee in the Cuban case,
informants said.

In Washington and Miami,
officials were setting up facilities
to take care of the prisoners,
if and when they are released.
Reinforcements of personnel were
being rushed to Miami to handle
the expected big influx.

Under present procedures, the
Dade County (Miami) Public
Health Department provides the
refugees with medical services,
and the Florida Public Aid
Agency with financial help. The
Federal Government reimburses
both agencies.

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